(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from the Municipal Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal, suggesting some alternative schemes and certain modifications to the Ganga Action Plan (Phase II) Scheme; and

(b) if so, whether approval to the modification has been given or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A proposal comprising works like solid waste management, river front development, action plan for Mahananda river in Siliguri and works in 5 new towns amounting to about Rs. 126 crore has been received from Government of West Bengal. All these works are beyond the scope of the presently approved scheme of Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. It has been decided to consider the proposal only after completion of the already sanctioned works under Ganga Action Plan Phase-II amount to Rs. 120 crore by the target date of December, 2005.

Lapses in Implementation of A.P. forestry project

369. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has regretted certain lapses in implementation of the first phases of A.P. forestry project known as Joint Forest Management;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has also considered shifting cultivation lands under the bank's resettlement policy;

(c) whether the NGO's have pointed out to the World Bank that they have reached an agreement with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing compensation to those affected; and

(d) if so, to what extent the World bank has agreed to resettle victims of forestry projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In the Andhra Pradesh Community Forest Management Project now under implementation, a provision has been made for

rehabilitation and resettlement of people who are affected because of the project activities.

Air and noise pollution in capital

370. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CPCB has recently revealed that air and noise pollution in the capital has increased;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any assessment of increase/decrease of air and noise pollution in other major cities have also been undertaken by CPCB;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effective steps taken by Government to check such increase of air and noise pollution in major cities, particularly in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d) Central Pollution Control Board, in coordination with State Pollution Control Boards, is carrying out assessment of air and noise pollution in the country, including major cities like Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and capital city of Delhi. The available air quality data indicates that in most of the metropolitan cities, the Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) levels have crossed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), whereas the annual average of Sulpur dioxide (SO_2) and Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) remained well within the NAAQS limits except occasional violations. The noise pollution levels were observed on a higher side during the festival period due to bursting of firecrackers and use of loudspeakers.

(e) Government has taken several steps for prevention and control of air and noise pollution in metro and mega cities of the country. These include:

— Emission standards for various industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

— Promotion of cleaner technologies for control of industrial pollution.